

GOVERNOR’S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Diana Cheng on behalf of Delegate Van T. Mitchell, Michael Cohen, Kara Contino on behalf of Senator Bryan Simonaire, Jeanne Cooper on behalf of Secretary Sam Malhotra, Jessica Dickerson on behalf of Secretary Sam Abed, Julie Drake on behalf of Richard Barth, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Ellen Grunden on behalf of State’s Attorney Scott Patterson, Zenita Hurley on behalf of Attorney General Brian Frosh, Dorothy Lennig, Mark Newgent on behalf of Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, Lisa Nitsch, Akeda Pearson, Manuel Ruiz, Chris Shank, David Shultie, Joan Stine, and David Wolinski on behalf of Secretary Stephen Moyer, and Jeanne Yeager.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Lisae C. Jordan on behalf of Delegate Valderrama, Arlene Lee, Lillian Lowery, and Adam Rosenberg.

STAFF: Lashonde Beasley and Nakita Long

GUESTS: Michelle Siri

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Nakita Long began the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Approve the Minutes of January 21, 2015.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE:

- ❖ Domestic Violence Rules 9-300, et seq.
 - Dorothy Lennig provided an overview of changes to Maryland Rules of Procedure, Title 9 – Family Law Actions, Chapter 300 – Domestic Violence.
 - Change Effective: July 1, 2015
 - Issue: When the Respondent is not served with the temporary protective order by the time of the final protective order hearing, this new Rule allows the Petitioner to waive her/his appearance at subsequent final protective order hearings until the Respondent has been served.
 - Procedure:
 - Petitioner files for an interim or temporary protective order
 - Petitioner appears at first final protective order hearing and Respondent does not appear because s/he hasn’t been served
 - Court extends temporary protective order to effectuate service by law enforcement
 - Petitioner files a request for waiver of appearance at future final protective order hearings until the Respondent is served
 - Petitioner must register with VINE Protective Order (VPO) so s/he will know when the Respondent is served with the temporary protective order
 - The Court **shall** grant the waiver of appearance

- Petitioner must confirm date of final protective order hearing by contacting clerk after the Respondent is served
- Clerk must promptly mail extended temporary protective orders to Petitioner and include notice to Petitioner of consequences of non-compliance by Petitioner with requirements in Order
- The Petitioner is responsible for knowing when the Respondent has been served, confirming the date of the next final protective order hearing, and appearing at the hearing.
- If the Respondent is served and appears at the final protective order and the Petitioner is not there, the Court, on its own initiative, may excuse a Petitioner's non-appearance and continue the Order if the court finds that service on the Respondent was so recent that the Petitioner may not have been aware of the service.

LEGISLATION:

❖ An update of this year's legislative session was provided:

- HB 225/SB 269 Domestic Violence – Additional Relief
 - This bill expands the relief available in a final protective order by authorizing a judge to order “any other relief that a judge determines is necessary to protect a person eligible for relief from abuse.” This bill would provide more flexibility for judges to order any other appropriate relief and tailor the order specific to the case
 - Passed with amendments
- HB 224/SB 315 Domestic Violence – 2 Year Protective Order
 - This bill clarifies that extensions of protective orders applies to consent orders.
 - Passed
- HB 606/SB 477 Domestic Violence- Persons Eligible for Relief
 - This bill expands the “person eligible for relief” in the protective order statute to include “*an individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within 1 year before filing of the petition.*” This provides more protection for victims/survivors of sex crimes and dating violence by moving these cases from the peace order to the protective order.
 - Passed with amendments
- HB 263 Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders – Conspiracy or Solicitation to Commit Murder
 - This bill expands the circumstances under which a court is required to issue a permanent final protective order to include the conviction of an individual for conspiracy or solicitation to commit murder.
 - Passed
- HB 390/SB 270 Protective Order and Peace Order Petitions – Maryland Residents
 - This bill authorizes the filing of a protective or peace order petition if the abuse is alleged to have occurred in Maryland or if the person eligible for relief is a resident of Maryland, regardless of whether the alleged abuse occurred in the state.
 - Passed
- HB 227 Family Law- Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse
 - This bill would have altered the definition of “abuse” in the protective order to include harassment, trespass, and malicious destruction of property if the person eligible for relief had not resided with the respondent for at least 7 days before the filing of the petition.
 - Unfavorable Report
- HB 807/SB 277 Family Law – Protective Orders – Additional Relief

- This bill would have authorized a judge in a final protective order to order the respondent to remain a specified distance away from the residence, place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief.
- This bill is only related to distance and was narrower than HB 225/SB 269 Domestic Violence – Additional Relief – which passed.
- Passed House; no vote in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
- HB 857/SB 530 Criminal Procedure – Firearms – Transfer
 - This bill would require the court to order a person who is convicted of a crime of violence that is a misdemeanor “domestically related crime” to transfer all firearms owned by the person or in the person’s possession. The transfer of firearms must be made within 24 hours of the conviction to a state or local law enforcement official or to a federally licensed firearms dealer with notification to the court.
 - Unfavorable report in House Judiciary; no vote in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

WORKGROUP:

❖ Best Practices – Family Justice Centers

- Mission: The purpose of this workgroup is to establish recommendations for Best Practices and Alternatives for Family Justice Centers Statewide. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan that, if implemented, will aid counties throughout Maryland in developing Family Justice Centers that make victims safer, hold offenders accountable and provide wrap around services, which includes mental health and long-term support for victims and their families through collaboration and coordinated services.
- The group has continued to research different Family Justice Centers, and have established the definition of what a Family Justice Center is and its core components to begin putting together recommendations for best practices of a FJC in Maryland.

❖ AIP Certification and Audit Process Review

- Mission: The purpose of this workgroup is to identify barriers that hinder abuser intervention programs from meeting the Operational Guidelines for Abuser Intervention Programs as set forth by the Governor’s Family Violence Council. The goal is to ensure that certified abuse intervention programs meet the Guidelines in practice and to develop a protocol for certified programs that are not in compliance with the Guidelines.
- The workgroup originally sought to have an outcome study completed to determine the effectiveness of AIPs in Maryland. However, due to the vague Operational Guidelines and differences amongst programs, before an outcome study can be done, a process evaluation must be conducted.
 - Dr. Tara Richards (University of Baltimore) and Dr. Chris Murphy (UMBC) will lead the evaluation.
 - A BJAG grant will be submitted to help fund this project.
 - The workgroup and researchers will meet with members of the Maryland Abuse Intervention Collaborative (MAIC) to discuss this project and get buy-in from current AIPs.
 - A suggestion was made to forego the audit process of AIPs this year in an effort to obtain the necessary buy-in from certified programs.

❖ Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child

- Julie Drake advised that the workgroup is reaching out to local law enforcement officers in an effort to continue establishing a protocol to help reduce causing additional trauma to children exposed to domestic violence and mitigate the impact of such trauma.
- The brochures that were created will be reviewed again by clinicians and victims so that they can be finalized and disseminated.

VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER:

❖ VPO Statistics

- During the month of January 2015, there were 2,775 protective orders issued. There were 342 registrations which means that 12% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- During the month of February 2015, there were 2,280 protective orders issued. There were 396 registrations which means that 17% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- During the month of March 2015, there were 3,013 protective orders issued. There were 457 registrations which means that 15% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- ❖ Training
 - The following VPO trainings are scheduled to take place this year and others will continued to be scheduled at various victim service agencies throughout the year:
 - Carroll County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)
 - May 20 @ 9:00 AM
 - Webinars
 - May 14 @ 11:00 AM
 - July 16 @ 2:00 PM
 - September 9 @ 11:00 AM
 - November 18 @ 2:00 PM
 - Statewide Onsite VPO Training (MD Police and Correctional Training Commission)
 - October 21 @ 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM
 - October 22 @ 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM
- ❖ Issues
 - Nakita Long advised that on March 31, she was notified by staff at the House of Ruth, Inc. that a protective order issued on March 27th was not in the VPO system. After reviewing the case, Nakita discovered that VPO had not been updated since March 26th. Nakita worked with Jacob Cooper, Maryland's VPO Client Relationship Manager at Appriss and Appriss has since changed its protocol so that as soon as a data alarm is received indicating that 15 minutes has passed and no protective order information has been received, Jacob Cooper will be alerted along with Appriss' IT Team, who will then convey the information to Nakita.
- ❖ Brochures
 - Revised VPO brochures should be received by the end of May/early June and will be disseminated to courts, commissioner's offices, and victim service agencies upon receipt.

ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (2015):

- ❖ Nakita Long advised that the 2015 Application for Abuse Intervention Program Certification is posted on GOCCP's website and completed applications are due May 29, 2015.
- ❖ As indicated previously, the Council agreed to forego the 2015 audit of Certified AIPs in an effort to have buy-in from AIPs to assist with the AIP workgroup's process evaluation research.

FVC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- ❖ Nakita Long advised the Council of the following membership updates:
 - Michelle Fager was appointed to the Council by the Governor.
 - Chris Shank has been appointed as Chair of the Council.
 - Delegate Brett Wilson has been appointed to the Council
 - There is one vacant Senate seat on the Council.

BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY BRIDGEST TO END IPV

- ❖ The University of Maryland School of Social Work in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will hosts its first symposium to address intimate partner violence as a continuing public health crisis.
- ❖ The event was originally scheduled for today, April 29, 2015, but will be rescheduled due to recent events in Baltimore. The FVC will be made aware of the new date once it has been set.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ The Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence will host a Human Trafficking Training on May 7, 2015.
- ❖ Dr. Akeda Pearson will hosts the 3rd Sundays Tea, Tastings & Testimonials on Sunday, May 17 and Sunday, 19, 2015. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will support the House of Rahab in Howard County and Muslimat Al-Nisaa in Baltimore City.
- ❖ Nakita Long was asked to follow-up prior to the next meeting with Martha Danner, DPSCS, to determine where DPSCS is with respect to implementing changes to their Offender Case Management System (OCMS) that were requested by the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ❖ Meeting adjourned approximately 12:00 PM.